

# Office of the Sheriff

SHERIFF  
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\*\*\* Press Release\*\*\*

On 09/09/2024, around 9:00 PM, The Sheriff's Office began to receive information regarding photos circulating through social media of a person holding a firearm and subsequently communicating threats toward schools. We began to investigate immediately and was able to develop a potential suspect through an Instagram account. The investigation led to a physical address in Cleveland County where the suspect was found to be a juvenile.

Since learning the identity of the suspect, this person has been interviewed by Sheriff's Office Investigators and we can confirm that the threatening social media post was originated by this person and shared on social media platforms. It does appear that the threats that were made was to avoid attending school, and not to carry out a physical act of violence. This is currently an active investigation, as we are still following leads to determine if others are involved. The juvenile suspect we have identified will be processed by the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and continued through the juvenile court proceedings.

I would like to emphasize that the Sheriff's Office will investigate this type of incident to the fullest and always put the safety of the students and staff as the highest priority.

Sheriff Alan Norman